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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

David L. Patton, et al

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Serial No. US 09/605,246

Filed 28 June 2000

Group Art Unit: 3722

Examiner: M. Carter

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Deborah J. Walczak
Deborah J. Walczak

June 27, 2002
Date

R. Kent

7/17/02

*#12/Request
Record*

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Official Action dated April 4, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Please amend the application as follows.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 3, 14, and 28 under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Masato et al. for the reasons set forth in paragraph 2. In addition, the Examiner has rejected dependent claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-21, 29 and 30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masato et al. for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4. The last of the independent claims 22, was rejected by the Examiner in paragraph 5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abt et al. in view of Onishi and Erickson and further in view of Masato et al. for the reasons set forth in paragraph 5.

In summary the Examiner has rejected all the claims either entirely or in part over the Masato et al. reference. In this regard, applicants respectfully submit that the Masato et al. reference does not teach or suggest the invention as taught and claimed by applicant. In particular, the independent claims particularly